

LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH
8 January 1982

THIRD MAN IN LIBYA CASE INFORMS

By IAN BALL
in New York

FEDERAL investigations into the activities on behalf of Libya of Edwin Wilson and Frank Terpil, two fugitive former CIA agents, have been advanced significantly after a third man in the case decided to co-operate with the FBI.

In turn, this evidence from an American whom Wilson appointed as the "supervisor" of a terrorist-training camp in Libya has implicated two other CIA agents — men described as middle-level employees who were dismissed from the spy agency in 1977 after an internal inquiry.

The "third man" is Douglas M. Schlachter, 39, who surrendered to Federal authorities last month. He had been indicted last August by a Federal Grand Jury on charges of illegally shipping explosives from the United States to Libya.

The Grand Jury more recently has been questioning Miss Roberta Barnes, a 33-year-old Texan divorcee who for the past two years has been directing the operations of a number of companies established in London by Wilson.

Jailed in Texas

When she flew home to Texas to spend Christmas with her family and her 10-year-old son, Miss Barnes was arrested and jailed for four days as a "material witness" in the "Libyan Connection" investigation. Her lawyer insisted, however, that she is "no Mata Hari."

At a brief hearing in Federal court in Washington, Schlachter agreed to plead guilty to two charges of criminal conduct stemming from his work in Libya for Wilson. Two further charges were being dropped in return for his co-operation.

Mr Alvin Askew, his lawyer, has portrayed Schlachter as yet another individual who was hoodwinked by Wilson into believing that what he was doing in Libya had been sanctioned by the CIA.

He said his client had told Federal prosecutors that he briefed two high-ranking CIA officials about Wilson's activities on behalf of the Gaddafi regime in meetings in Washington in 1976 and 1977.

Obtain arms

The two officials, according to the lawyer, had told Schlachter to carry out intelligence missions in Libya, among them trying to obtain Russian military equipment, electronic components from Soviet-made radar, and even a surface-to-air Soviet missile.

Mr Askew identified the two former CIA officials as Theodore G. Shackley, chief deputy director of clandestine services for the agency, Thomas G. Clines, director of training.

Clines retired from the agency in 1978. Shackley left in 1979. Both have denied any knowledge of the Libya project. Schlachter is the first person to provide investigations and the Grand Jury with detailed, first-hand information on Wilson's operations in Libya.

Mr Askew said he did not know whether his client had ever actually carried out the espionage assignments mentioned in his CIA briefings.